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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, OVIP, GE, US
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER.

REF: A) BERLIN 3564, B) 77 BERLIN 6855

SUMMARY: DURING MY MAY 31 MEETING WITH GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER, I OUTLINED THE PROGRESS MADE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CULTURAL AND COMMERCIAL AREAS, AND OUR SATISFACTION OVER THE RESOLUTION OF SOME HUMANITARIAN CASES. AT THE SAME TIME, I
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STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING OR MOVING AHEAD ON OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES -- THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, REMAINING HUMANITARIAN CASES, AND CLAIMS -- FOR THE FURTHER NORMALIZATION OF OUR RELATIONS. I ALSO NOTED THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACHED TO A CONSTRUCTIVE UNSSOD SESSION, FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT, AND DREW HIS ATTENTION TO US CONCERNS OVER

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RECENT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS. IN REPLY, FISCHER EXPRESSED GENERAL OPTIMISM ABOUT OUT BILATERAL RELATIONS AND ASSERTED HE STILL HAD TO DO HIS HOMEWORK IN CONNECTION WITH HIS WASHINGTON MEETINGS. IN A POSSIBLE ALLUSION TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, HE SAID THAT "WITHOUT SELLING OUT HIS OWN COUNTRY" IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND SOLUTIONS ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. CONSIDERING THE GDR'S PROFOUND CONCERN ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS FOR THEM OF A NATIONALITY CLAUSE, AND DEPENDING ON WHAT FISCHER MAY HAVE TO SAY ON THIS SUBJECT, WE MAY WISH TO CONSIDER MOVING TO A "CIRCLE OF CONCERNED PERSONS" APPROACH TO THE ISSUE. END SUMMARY.
1. I MET FOR ONE HOUR WITH GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER MAY 31. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MFA USA DESK OFFICER ELM AND BY RINGLEB, AN INTERPRETER. THE DCM WAS ALSO PRESENT.

2. FOLLOWING INITIAL PLEASANTRIES, I TOLD FISCHER I APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET WITH HIM, REALIZING HIS BUSY SCHEDULE. IT WAS USEFUL TO REVIEW OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS ON THE EVE OF HIS MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT UNSSOD WOULD MAKE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO DISARMAMENT, THAT IT WOULD EXPAND ON EXISTING AREAS OF AGREEMENT, WHERE PROGRESS CAN BE MADE, RATHER THAN CONCENTRATING ON AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT. I GAVE HIM FOR HIS CONSIDERATION THE TEXT OF VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S MAY 24 SPEECH AT UNSSOD.
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3. BILATERAL RELATIONS - GENERAL. I TOLD FISCHER I HAD COME TO TALK ESSENTIALLY ABOUT OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. I WAS PLEASED THESE WERE DEVELOPING IN A FAVORABLE MANNER. SINCE THE FONMIN'S LAST MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN SEPTEMBER 1977, WE HAD MADE SOME NEW AND IMPORTANT BE-GINNINGS. THESE WERE GOOD FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION IN OUR MUTUAL INTERESTS. WE WERE IN A PERIOD OF INCREASED BILATERAL ACTIVITY; THIS OFFERED THE OPPOR-TUNITY TO IMPROVE THE ATMOSPHERE AND CLIMATE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF RELATIONS. I NOTED THE IMPORTANCE OF BROADENING CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE DEVEL-OPMENT OF THESE RELATIONS. STATE SECRETARY BEIL'S VISIT TO THE US WAS VERY USEFUL IN THIS RESPECT: IT WAS A POSITIVE ELEMENT FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. I HOPED THAT BEIL HAD BROUGHT BACK A BETTER APPRECIATION OF US VIEWS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR OVERALL RELATIONS.

4. I NOTED CULTURE MINISTER HOFFMANN WAS IN WASHINGTON; I WAS PLEASED THE AMERICAN PUBLIC WOULD HAVE THE OPPOR-TUNITY TO SEE THE OUTSTANDING DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT. I NOTED THAT MINISTER HOFFMANN WOULD HAVE POLICY-LEVEL

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DISCUSSIONS IN WASHINGTON AND HOPED THESE WOULD LEAD TO BETTER UNDERSTANDING AS WELL AS BROADER CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

5. I TOLD THE FONMIN I ATTACHED GREAT IMPORTANCE TO HIS FORTHCOMING MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE AS A FOLLOW-UP TO THEIR MEETING LAST SEPTEMBER. I HOPED THE UPCOMING MEETING WOULD BE FRUITFUL AND SERVE AS AN IMPETUS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS.

6. COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENTS. IN REVIEWING THE STATUS OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, I SAID CONSIDERABLE PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN TRADE RELATIONS. WE APPRECIATED VERY MUCH COUNCIL OF STATE CHAIRMAN HONECKER'S VISIT TO THE US
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PAVILION AT THE LEIPZIG FALL FAIR AND THE GENERAL GOOD ATMOSPHERE THIS HAD CREATED. THE US-GDR TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCILS HAD HELD GOOD MEETINGS; OUR PEOPLE WERE PLEASED

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BY THE HOSPITALITY SHOWN THEM. I WAS CONVINCED THE COUNCILS WOULD PLAY AN INCREASING ROLE IN TRADE RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. ALL THE INFORMATION WE HAD RECEIVED INDICATED THE GDR'S TECHNICAL DAYS IN NEW YORK, CHICAGO AND LOS ANGELES WERE A GREAT SUCCESS AND HAD INVOLVED REPRESENTATIVES OF SOME 900 FIRMS. AT THE SAME TIME, I APPRECIATED THE GDR'S COOPERATION WITH RESPECT TO OUR TRADE PROMOTION EFFORTS AT LEIPZIG AND WITH THE TECHNICAL SALES SEMINARS.

7. IDREW FISCHER'S ATTENTION TO A NEW ACTIVITY, NAMELY OUR INTEREST IN BROADENING AND DEEPENING RELATIONS IN THE CONFIDENTIAL

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AGRICULTURAL AREA EXEMPLIFIED BY THE FACT THE EMBASSY NOW HAS AN AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE. (FISCHER EXPRESSED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SURPRISE AT THIS POINT.) WE VALUED THE TRADE IN GRAIN AND INTENDED TO REMAIN A RELIABLE SUPPLIER TO THE GDR. AT THE SAME TIME, WE WANTED TO GO BEYOND AGRICULTURAL TRADE TO DEVELOP AN EXCHANGE IN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY, AND TO HAVE MORE VISITS AND BROADENED ACTIVITY IN THIS AREA. WE WERE LOOKING FORWARD TO GRAIN CONSULTATIONS LATER THIS YEAR, PERHAPS IN WASHINGTON. I THEN TOLD FISCHER I HAD TRANSMITTED TO GDR MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE KUHRIG A MESSAGE FROM SECRETARY BERGLAND (STATE 130364) IN CONNECTION WITH THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL MEETING IN MEXICO CITY, AND HOPED WE COULD WORK TOGETHER IN THIS AREA.

8. CULTURAL AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS. IN THE CULTURAL FIELD, RELATIONS HAD BECOME BROADER AND DEEPER. WE APPRECIATED THE DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT; THIS COULD SERVE AS A CENTERPIECE FOR EXPANDED GDR CONTACTS IN THEATER, MUSIC, AND THE ARTS AND OTHER FIELDS IN THE US DURING THE COMING NINE MONTHS. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF RELATIONS, WE HAD BEEN ABLE TO IMPLEMENT SOME CULTURAL PROGRAMS HERE; I MENTIONED THE PAUL STRAND EXHIBIT, THE FILM WEEK, AND THE INDUSTRIAL DESIGN EXHIBIT, ALL OF WHICH WERE WELL RECEIVED. WE WERE ALSO LOOKING FORWARD TO THE COMPOSERS STRING QUARTET IN OCTOBER.

9. THESE WERE HIGHLIGHTS IN THE RECENT DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RELATIONS. THERE WERE OTHER POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL: SEVERAL HUMANITARIAN CASES HAD BEEN RESOLVED;

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THE VISIT BY THE US NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES DELE-
GATION HAD RESULTED IN THE INITIALING OF AN AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE SCIENTIFIC ACADEMIES OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES
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WHICH WILL BE SIGNED LATER THIS YEAR; WE ALSO HAD HAD
DISCUSSIONS ON PROPERTY AND FINANCIAL CLAIMS, AND HAD
THE DRAFT OF A POSTAL AGREEMENT ON THE TABLE.

10. OUTSTANDING BILATERAL ISSUES - CONSULAR CONVENTION.
I TOLD FISCHER HE KNEW AS WELL AS I DID THAT THERE WERE
SOME OUTSTANDING POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL ISSUES WHICH
WERE IMPEDING THE FURTHER NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS. IN
THIS CONNECTION, WE ENCOURAGED ACTIONS BY THE GDR AIMED
AT SOLVING THESE PROBLEMS SO THAT WE COULD ADVANCE OUR
BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE CONSULAR CONVENTION WAS A MAIN
PROBLEM. WASHINGTON, QUITE FRANKLY, WAS PUZZLED BY THE
LACK OF MOVEMENT ON THIS ISSUE SINCE IT COULD SERVE AS A
BASIS FOR PROGRESS IN OTHER AREAS OF OUR RELATIONS. I HAD
TAKEN THE FONMIN'S SUGGESTION TO HOLD INFORMAL TALKS WITH
DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTERS GRUNERT AND MOLDT ON THE MATTER
OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION. I HAD APPRECIATED THE FLEXIBLE
AND CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH THE GDR SIDE HAD SHOWN.

11. WE KNEW THE PROBLEM WAS A DIFFICULT ONE. AT THE SAME
TIME, WE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE LACK OF PROGRESS
SINCE JANUARY, BUT WERE READY TO CONTINUE DISCUSSIONS TO
FIND A SOLUTION TO THE DIFFERENCES, INCLUDING THE
NATIONALITY QUESTION. THE RESOLUTION OF THIS MATTER COULD
BE CONDUCIVE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR BILATERAL RELA-
TIONS. I NOTED THAT WHEN STATE SECRETARY BEIL WAS IN
WASHINGTON, HE HAD INDICATED THE FONMIN MIGHT TAKE UP THE
CONSULAR CONVENTION QUESTION WITH SECRETARY VANCE. I WAS
PLEASED THE FONMIN WOULD DO SO IF THAT WAS INDEED HIS
INTENTION. IF HE HAD SUGGESTIONS ABOUT THE MATTER, I
WOULD BE PLEASED TO INFORM WASHINGTON IN CONNECTION WITH
HIS VISIT.

12. HUMANITARIAN CASES. HUMANITARIAN CASES WERE HIGH ON
OUR LIST OF CONTINUING UNRESOLVED QUESTIONS. I APPRE-
CIATED THE GDR'S COOPERATION IN RESOLVING SOME CASES. I
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RECALLED MY FIRST MEETING WITH FISCHER WHEN I HAD STRESSED
TO HIM THE GREAT IMPORTANCE AMERICANS ATTACH TO FAMILY
AND ETHNIC TIES. WE HAD A FEW OUTSTANDING

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IF THESE COULD BE POSITIVELY AND PROMPTLY RESOLVED IT
WOULD HAVE A VERY POSITIVE IMPACT IN THE US. THERE WERE
ELEVEN SUCH CASES (AND I HANDED HIM A LIST OF DIVIDED
FAMILIES AND BINATIONAL MARRIAGE CASES). I REITERATED
THAT HUMANITARIAN CASES WERE A VERY IMPORTANT QUESTION AS
FAR AS THE US SIDE WAS CONCERNED AND URGED HIM TO DO
SOMETHING ABOUT THESE CASES. HE SHOULD KNOW THAT SINCE MY
ARRIVAL LAST AUGUST, WE HAD RECEIVED NUMEROUS CONGRES-
SIONAL LETTERS ON SUCH CASES. THE POSITIVE RESOLUTION OF
SUCH CASES COULD HAVE A SIGNIFICANCE IN OUR BILATERAL
RELATIONS FAR BEYOND THE SMALL NUMBER OF CASES INVOLVED.

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13. CLAIMS. ANOTHER PROBLEM WAS THAT OF CLAIMS. WHEN I HAD ARRIVED LAST AUGUST, I HAD PROPOSED THAT US AND GDR EXPERTS SHOULD MEET TO DISCUSS THE LAWS AND PROCEDURES FOLLOWED BY BOTH SIDES IN CLAIMS MATTERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF FACILITATING FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS ONCE THESE DO TAKE PLACE. AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION HAD TAKEN PLACE BETWEEN EXPERTS IN MARCH, AND THE ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN GOOD. THE US EXPERTS HAD MADE PROPOSALS ON WAYS IN WHICH WE COULD PROCEED IN THIS MATTER. I HOPED THAT GDR EXPERTS WOULD CONSIDER THESE PROPOSALS SO THAT WE COULD HAVE ANOTHER MEETING, WITHOUT TOO MUCH DELAY, TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS WE HAD MADE.

14. CONCERNING JEWISH CLAIMS, I NOTED THAT SEVERAL MEETINGS HAD TAKEN PLACE AND URGED THAT THESE BE CONTINUED WITH THE VIEW TO TRYING TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

15. FEININGER PAINTINGS. I SAID THAT AN IMMEDIATE PROBLEM WHICH MIGHT BE RAISED WITH THE MINISTER WHEN HE WAS IN WASHINGTON WAS THE FEININGER PAINTINGS. A GDR COURT HAD DECIDED THAT THEY SHOULD BE RETURNED TO THE FEININGER HEIRS IN THE US. THE PAINTINGS HAD SENTIMENTAL IMPORTANCE FAR BEYOND THEIR MONETARY VALUE TO THE HEIRS. I HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH DEPFONMIN GRUNERT AND I HOPED THE PAINTINGS COULD BE RELEASED PROMPTLY. THIS WOULD HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT ON OUR RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN THE CONTEXT OF THE DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT. I NOTED ALSO THAT SENATOR JAVITS WAS INTERESTED IN THE MATTER. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE AND MIGHT BE PRESENT DURING THE MEETING THE MINISTER WOULD HAVE WITH SENATOR SPARKMAN, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE, AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS COMMITTEE.

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16. CSCE. IN CONCLUSION, I DREW FISCHER'S ATTENTION TO HIS MENTION LAST AUGUST OF THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND HIS STATEMENT THAT BOTH SIDES COULD COOPERATE IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION. WE WERE PREPARED TO DO SO. IN OUR VIEW, THE BELGRADE MEETING WAS A SUCCESS, EVEN THOUGH NO FINAL SUBSTANTIVE DOCUMENT HAD EMERGED FROM THE MEETING. IT WAS A SUCCESS IN THAT ALL THE SIGNATORIES REAFFIRMED THEIR COMMITMENT TO CSCE AND THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FINAL ACT. BELGRADE HAD ALSO SHOWN THERE WAS A GENERAL RECOGNITION OF THE IMPORTANCEOF CSCE IMPLEMENTATION IN SUSTAINING THE PROCESS OF DETENTE. I EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE US AND THE GDR COULD HAVE PERIODIC CONSULTATIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL ACT. THESE, I SAID, WERE MY THOUGHTS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL

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INTEREST, INCLUDING BILATERAL RELATIONS, AND I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS HE MIGHT WANT TO MAKE ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE UNITED STATES.

17. STILL HAS TO DO HIS HOMEWORK. FISCHER EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT MEETING WITH ME ON THE EVE OF HIS DEPARTURE. SINCE WE WERE ALL HUMAN BEINGS, HE SAID, WE HAD TO BE WELL TUNED TO WHAT WILL FACE US. AN AMBASSADOR HAD AN ADVANTAGE OVER A FOREIGN MINISTER IN THAT HE COULD CONCENTRATE EXCLUSIVELY ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE STILL HAD HIS HOMEWORK TO DO CONCERNING HIS TRIP TO THE US. MY REMARKS HAD SHOWN HIM WHAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED DURING HIS STAY. THIS WAS NOT ONLY RIGHT BUT IMPORTANT. HE WISHED TO USE THE OCCASION OF MY MEETING WITH HIM TO THANK ME FOR WHAT I HAD DONE TO HELP PROMOTE US-GDR RELATIONS.

18. FISCHER BELIEVED THE MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE WOULD GIVE AN IMPETUS TO OUR RELATIONS, IN ALL AREAS OF CONCERN TO BOTH SIDES. IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR HIM AT THIS POINT TO REVIEW OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS, PARTICULARLY SINCE I HAD DONE SO IN AN APPROPRIATE WAY. HE SAW NO DIFFERENCES IN THE APPRAISAL OF BILATERAL RELATIONS BET-
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WEEN WHAT I HAD SAID AND HIS VIEWS OF THOSE RELATIONS. HE REITERATED THAT HE WOULD BEGIN TO CONCERN HIMSELF AS OF THIS EVENING WITH BILATERAL RELATIONS; UNTIL NOW HE HAD

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BEEN BUSY WITH HIS JUNE 5 UNSSOD SPEECH AND VISIT TO BELGIUM AND LUXEMBOURG.

19. HIS VIEW OF OUR RELATIONS COINCIDED WITH THE GENERAL OUTLINE I HAD GIVEN HIM. GOOD THINGS HAD HAPPENED IN ALL AREAS OF OUR RELATIONS. PERHAPS THERE HAD BEEN MORE PROGRESS OF GREATER SIGNIFICANCE IN SOME FIELDS AND LESS IN OTHERS. HE FOUND THIS NORMAL, AND DREW AN ANALOGY TO HUMAN BEINGS WHO MOVE ON TWO LEGS. WHEN BOTH LEGS ARE USED, A PERSON ADVANCES. WHILE IT IS POSSIBLE TO MOVE ON ONE LEG, IT IS ALSO DIFFICULT. THEREFORE, BOTH SIDES SHOULD USE THEIR LEGS FOR NORMAL MOVEMENT. IF THERE WERE NO CONFIDENTIAL

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INTENTIONAL EFFORTS TO STOP SUCH MOVEMENT FOR ARTIFICIAL REASONS, HE WAS NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT WE HAD MOVED AHEAD MORE IN SOME AREAS AND LESS IN OTHERS.

20. CONCERNING BEIL'S VISIT TO THE US, THEY HAD IN FACT BEEN FOLLOWING EACH OTHER AROUND. HE HAD JUST COME FROM LUXEMBOURG WHEN BEIL HAD GONE THERE. AS A RESULT, WHILE HE HAD TALKED WITH BEIL ON THE PHONE, HE HAD NOT HAD A CHANCE FOR A DETAILED FACE-TO-FACE DISCUSSION. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WAS CONVINCED THAT WHAT BEIL HAD ACCOMPLISHED IN THE US WOULD HELP MOVE OUR RELATIONS FORWARD.

21. FISCHER SAID THAT, BY NATURE, HE WAS NOT A PESSIMIST BUT AN OPTIMIST. THEREFORE, HE SAW NOTHING THAT WOULD REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUCCESSFUL MEETING WITH SECRETARY VANCE.

22. THE OPENING OF THE DRESDEN ART EXHIBIT HAD FIT WELL WITH THE OVERALL PICTURE I HAD OUTLINED. THE SAME THING WAS TRUE OF THE PAUL STRAND EXHIBIT. ALL OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS GAVE COLOR TO OUR RELATIONS; WHEN ONE SEES A SITUATION IN COLOR IT LOOKS MORE BEAUTIFUL AND HEALTHY.

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23. CAN'T IMPROVE ON HELSINKI FINAL ACT. CONCERNING THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND THE BELGRADE MEETING, HE WAS ALSO SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS. AT THE SAME TIME THERE WAS A NUANCE OF DIFFERENCE IN OUR INTERPRETATIONS ON THE SUCCESS OF THE BELGRADE MEETING IN CONNECTION WITH MY REFERENCE TO THE ABSENCE OF A SUBSTANTIVE CONCLUDING DOCUMENT FROM THE BELGRADE MEETING. HE HAD EXPECTED A NO MORE IMPORTANT DOCUMENT THAN THE FINAL ACT ITSELF. HE COULD NOT EXPECT THAT EXPERTS COULD ELABORATE OR WORK OUT SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE DOCUMENT SIGNED BY THE CONFIDENTIAL

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HEADS OF STATES. THE ABSENCE OF A "DOCUMENT" FROM THE BELGRADE MEETING DID NOT BOTHER HIM. THE MEETING AT BELGRADE HAD REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FINAL ACT. IN HIS VIEW, TOO MUCH TIME HAD BEEN LOST AT THE BEGINNING OF THE BELGRADE MEETING ON PROBLEMS WHICH WERE NOT THE CENTER POINT FOR THE MEETING.

24. HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO MADRID, AND WAS PLEASED THAT THREE SEMINARS WOULD BE HELD IN PREPARATION FOR THE MADRID MEETING. IN HIS VIEW, THESE SEMINARS MIGHT SHOW PARTICIPANTS HOW TO BEHAVE AT MADRID. HE DID NOT EXPECT ANYTHING FROM MADRID THAT WOULD GO BEYOND THE FINAL ACT. AT THE SAME TIME, HE WOULD NOT RULE IT OUT BECAUSE IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE HEADS OF STATES WOULD RECONVENE. MEETINGS AT A LOWER LEVEL, HOWEVER, WERE TOO INSIGNIFICANT TO PRODUCE SOMETHING BETTER THAN THE FINAL ACT. HE WAS MAKING THIS OBSERVATION BECAUSE HE WANTED TO SHOW WHAT WEIGHT HE ATTACHED TO THE FINAL ACT.

25. IF THE FINAL ACT IS IN SOME WAY USED AS A MEASURING ROD FOR THE COURSE OF US-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS, HE WOULD HAVE TO SAY THAT, APART FROM THE POINTS I HAD RAISED, THESE RELATIONS WERE DEVELOPING AS OUTLINED IN GENERAL TERMS BY THE FINAL ACT. IF THERE WERE MINOR FAULTS IN OUR RELATIONS, HE WENT ON, IT WAS BECAUSE WE WERE NOT USING OUR TWO LEGS THE WAY WE SHOULD. CONCERNING BEIL'S VISIT TO THE US AND HIS MEETINGS WITH CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND US BUSINESSMEN, THE DESIRE HAD BEEN EXPRESSED TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS INCLUDING IN THE ECONOMIC AREAS. IN FISCHER'S VIEW, THERE WERE MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR SUCH IMPROVEMENT THAN WE COULD NOW IMAGINE. FROM A GDR STANDPOINT, IMPROVEMENTS IN THE ECONOMIC AREA SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED TO GRAIN PURCHASES. THESE IMPROVEMENTS COULD ALSO INVOLVE SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL, TRADE AND OTHER COOPERATION. HE WAS SURPRISED THE US THOUGHT IT COULD DO SOMETHING WITH GDR AGRICULTURE, SINCE CONFIDENTIAL

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THE GDR WAS A SMALL PIECE OF GARDEN IN COMPARISON WITH THE US. FURTHERMORE, THE GDR WAS LABOR INTENSIVE, BUT AS FOREIGN MINISTER WAS PLEASED TO SEE AS MANY AREAS OF

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MOVEMENT AS POSSIBLE IN BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE WAS ONLY DISPLEASED WHEN THINGS WERE NOT MOVING FORWARD.

26. POSSIBLE ALLUSION TO CONSULAR CONVENTION. CONCERNING MY OBSERVATION ABOUT THE LACK OF MOVEMENT AND WASHINGTON'S PUZZLEMENT, FISCHER SAID WE SHOULD REFLECT ON WHAT HAD BEEN PROPOSED IN THIS RESPECT. IF ONE REFLECTED ONE WOULD NOTE THAT WHAT WAS ON THE TABLE STILL REQUIRED WORK ON BOTH SIDES. HE WAS READY TO ENGAGE IN

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SUCH WORK AND, AS HE SAID BEFORE, HE WAS BEGINNING HIS HOMEWORK ON BILATERAL RELATIONS TODAY. "WITHOUT SELLING OUT HIS OWN COUNTRY", IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE TO FIND SOLU-
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TIONS THAT ARE POSSIBLE FOR BOTH SIDES AND THAT WOULD MOVE BILATERAL RELATIONS FORWARD. HE COULD NOT GO INTO DETAIL NOW, BUT WISHED TO REASSURE ME HE WAS LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON WITH THE INTENTION OF SERVING US-GDR BILATERAL RELATIONS, NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT WAS HIS DUTY AS FOREIGN MINISTER, BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT WAS HIS CONVICTION THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN US WOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE CLIMATE, AT LEAST IN EUROPE.

27. THE GDR'S GEOGRAPHICAL POSITION WAS SUCH THAT WHAT IT DID HAD A BEARING ON THE EUROPEAN CLIMATE. IN THIS REGARD, THE GDR WISHED TO MEASURE UP TO THE SITUATION AT ALL TIMES. THERE WERE NO SUBORDINATE OR MINOR POINTS. ALTHOUGH WE WERE TALKING ABOUT BILATERAL RELATIONS WE SHOULD CONDUCT OURSELVES IN A WAY THAT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO EUROPEAN SECURITY. HIS INTENTION WAS TO MAKE PROGRESS AND HEADWAY IN THIS SENSE; HE HOPED TO HAVE A PARTNER IN THIS REGARD IN SECRETARY VANCE.
28. THESE WERE HIS PROVISIONAL THOUGHTS, AND SHOULD NOT BE COMMUNICATED TO WASHINGTON AS HIS CONSIDERED VIEWS. IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR A FOREIGN MINISTER TO HAVE SUCH AN EXCHANGE WITH AN AMBASSADORAND THAT I SHOULD KNOW WITH WHAT INTENTIONS AND IN WHAT MOOD HE WAS TRAVELING TO WASHINGTON. HE WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH ME WHEN HE RETURNED; HE HOPED WE WOULD BE ABLE TO SAY THAT WE WERE PROUD OF THE WORK THAT WE HAD DONE.

29. AFRICA AND BILATERAL ISSUES OF CONCERN TO US. I TOLD FISCHER I APPRECIATED HIS COMMENTS, AND COULD UNDERSTAND THAT HE HAD NOT DONE HIS HOMEWORK. AT THE SAME TIME, IT WAS INCUMBENT ON ME TO REITERATE TO HIM THE IMPORTANCE OF RESOLVING OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS. THE MAIN PROBLEM WAS THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, AS WELL AS THE RESOLUTION OF HUMANI-
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TARIAN CASES, AND PROGRESS ON CLAIMS MATTERS. I ADDED THAT, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE IMPORTANCE OF OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS IN TERMS OF EAST-WEST DETENTE, I WANTED TO TELL HIM THERE WAS A GREAT DEAL OF CONCERN IN WASHINGTON ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN AFRICA. HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH SENATORS SPARKMAN AND PERHAPS JAVITS, AND WITH CONGRESSMAN HAMIL-

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TON AS WELL AS WITH MEMBERS OF THEIR COMMITTEES. AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS CAN HAVE AN IMPACT ON CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION AND THUS HAVE A BEARING ON EAST-WEST RELATIONS. EAST-WEST DETENTE, IF IT IS TO BE SUCCESSFUL, MUST BE BOTH RECIPROCAL AND COMPREHENSIVE; WE MUST DEVELOP A PATTERN OF RESTRAINT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A DURABLE STRUCTURE FOR PEACEFUL COOPERATION. IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT HE SHOULD KNOW OUR CONCERN SINCE THE SUBJECT OF AFRICA COULD COME UP IN WASHINGTON.

30. FISCHER SAID THESE WERE ISSUES THAT WERE FAMILIAR TO HIM. HE APPRECIATED THAT I HAD RAISED THEM; HE WOULD MAKE USE OF HIS HOMEWORK TIME IN CASE THERE WAS AN INTEREST IN DISCUSSIONG SUCH MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. IF SECRETARY VANCE WANTED TO RAISE AFRICA, HE WOULD NOT AVOID ANY QUESTIONS.

31. COMMENT: THE MEETING WITH FISCHER PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY TO OUTLINE BILATERAL AS WELL AS MULTILATERAL ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO US, WHICH HE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS. FISCHER WAS RATHER FORTHCOMING IN TONE AND OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS. HOWEVER, HE GAVE NO INDICATION OF ISSUES HE INTENDS TO RAISE OR SPECIFIC RESPONSES TO ITEMS OF INTEREST TO US. I SUGGEST WE PRESS FISCHER ON HUMANITARIAN CASES, CSCE FOLLOW-UP INVOLVING ALL THREE BASKETS, AND THE NEED FOR RESTRAINT AND CONSTRUCTIVE BEHAVIOR IN AFRICA.

32. THE GDR IS AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO THE CONSULAR CONVENTION AS A PRECONDITION FOR MOVEMENT IN SOME OTHER AREAS. LEADERS HERE FEEL A BIT FRUSTRATED BY THIS
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LINKAGE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO IMPROVE BILATERAL RELATIONS. THEY CONSIDERED THE POSITION WE TOOK ON THE NATIONALITY ISSUE IN OUR LATEST APPROACH AS TANTAMOUNT TO QUESTIONING

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ACTION EUR-12

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SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCS-06
CA-01 HA-05 AF-10 OMB-01 STR-07 AGRE-00 IO-13
BIB-01 DLOS-09 OES-07 /118 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
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INFO AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
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THEIR SOVEREIGNTY, THEIR BORDERS AND THEIR CITIZENS. SINCE THE MATTER IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO THEM IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THEY WILL ACCEPT OUR CURRENT LANGUAGE OR ANY MODIFICATION OF IT. IN THE PRESENT STATE OF OUR RELATIONS I DO NOT BELIEVE WE HAVE SUFFICIENT LEVERAGE TO INDUCE THEM TO DO SO. SINCE THE CONSULAR CONVENTION IS OF IMPORTANCE TO US IN TERMS OF PROVIDING PROTECTION TO AMERICAN CITIZENS, AND DEPENDING ON WHAT FISCHER SAYS, I SUGGEST THAT WE CONSIDER SERIOUSLY THE "CIRCLE OF PERSONS" APPROACH RAISED BY AMBASSADOR KLOBES WITH ME JANUARY 31 (PARA 10, BERLIN 770).

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33. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FISCHER MAY ALSO RAISE SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

A. NEED FOR MFN;

B. MORE FORTHCOMING U.S. ATTITUDE ON COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATION IN THE U.S., INCLUDING THE MOVING OF THE GDR EMBASSY COMMERCIAL SECTION TO NEW YORK;

C. ISSUANCE OF VISAS FOR GDR SERVICE ENGINEERS;

D. DESIRABILITY OF REGULAR POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AT SENIOR LEVELS;

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E. ENCOURAGEMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL VISITS TO THE GDR;

F. NEGOTIATION OF A CULTURAL AGREEMENT AND CULTURAL RECIPROCITY;
G. DISLOCATION CAUSED BY THE CUTBACK IN THE FISHERIES ALLOCATION; AND

H. THE DUERER PAINTINGS AND THE REICHS POSTAL MUSEUM STAMPS.
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Message Attributes

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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
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Subject: AMBASSADOR\'S MEETING WITH GDR FOREIGN MINISTER FISCHER.
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